

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-04 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-06 RSC-01

EB-04 COME-00 AID-05 L-02 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00

TRSE-00 OMB-01 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06

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R 130022Z NOV 74

FM USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7332

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, UNGA, ECOSOC

SUBJ: INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON TRANSNATIONAL

CORPORATIONS (TNCS)

1. SECOND MEETING OF SPECIAL INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEE
ON TNCS (SIC) INCLUDED 12 GENERALLY BRIEF, BUSINESSLIKE,
INTERVENTIONS FROM NEARLY EQUAL MIXTURE OF DCS AND LDCS.
INTERVENTIONS DEVOTED LARGEMLY TO EXPRESSING DELEGATIONS'
VIEWS ON COMPOSITION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE OF PROPOSED
MNCS COMMISSION AND MODALITIES OF OPERATION OF SECRETARIAT
INFORMATION AND RESEARCH CENTER. JAOR EXCEPTION TO THIS
PATTERN WAS POLEMIC ATTACK ON ALLEGED MISDEEDS OF TNCS
BY GDR DELEGATE, WHO WENT SO FAR AS TO PROPOSE THAT COMMISSION
SHOULD ONLY CONSIDER NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF TNCS.

2. NEARLY UNANIMOUS CONSENSUS OF DELEGATES SPEAKING
TODAY WAS THAT COMMISSION SHOULD BE ADVISORY BODY TO
ECOSOC COMPOSED OF GOVERNMENTAL REPRESENTATIVES, WHO
NEVERTHELESS SHOULD BE QUALIFIED IN THE FIELD. THERE
WAS, HOWEVER, WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER POSSIBLE MEANS OF
PERMITTING EXPERTS FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL GROUPS, INCLUDING
LABOR, BUSINESS, CONSUMER REPRESENTATIVES AND ACADEMIA

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TO PARTICIPATE ON A REGULAR BASIS ON COMMISSION'S WORK.

IN THIS REGARD, CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT WAS EXPRESSED FOR YUGOSLAV IDEA, WHICH WE EXPECT TO BE FORMALIZED IN DRAFT REPORTEDLY BEING WORKED OUT BY THEM AND SMALL GROUP OTHERS G-77 FOR ONE OR MORE PANELS OF INDEPENDENT EXPERTS TO BE SELECTED BY SYG OR COMMISSION AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH GOVERNMENTS.

3. MOST DELEGATES SPEAKING GENERALLY AGREED WITH PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR COMMISSION; ALTHOUGH SEVERAL, INCLUDING JAPAN, NETHERLANDS AND COLOMBIA INDICATED THEIR BELIEF THAT TO BEGIN WORK ON A BINDING GENERAL INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON TNCS WAS PREMATURE AND UNREALISTIC.

4. THERE WAS LITTLE QUARREL WITH PROPOSED MODALITIES FOR INFORMATION AND RESEARCH CENTER, AND SEVERAL LDC DELEGATES URGED THAT IT BEGIN TO FUNCTION EARLY NEXT YEAR.

5. RELATIVELY LITTLE WAS SAID ON AGENDA ITEM ON SETTING PRIORITIES FOR WORK PROGRAM ON TNCS WITH SEVERAL DELEGATIONS EXPRESSING VIEW THAT THIS WAS PREMATURE. ARGENTINA AND GDR DELEGATES, HOWEVER, SPECIFICALLY RELATED ECOSOC WORK TO THE PROGRAM OF ACTION ADOPTED BY THE VI SPECIAL UNGA SESSION. UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, THAT G-77 RES IS LIKELY TO DEAL WITH PRIORITIES QUESTION IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL.

6. THUS FAR ONLY CANADIANS HAVE SUBMITTED DRAFT RESOLUTION ON ESTABLISHING UN MACHINERY ON TNCS. US DEL BELIEVES THAT EITHER CANADIAN DRAFT OR A WEST GERMAN DRAFT, WHICH IS CURRENTLY BEING CIRCULATED INFORMALLY, WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE BASIS FROM WHICH TO WORK. APART FROM EXPECTED G-77 DRAFT RES, WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT IF ANY OTHER DELEGATIONS PLAN TO SUBMIT DRAFTS BEFORE NOON WEDNESDAY DEADLINE.

7. U.S. DEL PLANS TO MAKE LOW-KEY INTERVENTION AT WEDNESDAY SESSION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMITTEE MEETINGS, MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974USUNN04944
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740326-0683
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741145/aaaabmgg.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUL 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <18 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS (TNCS)
TAGS: EGEN, UNGA, ECOSOC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005